Shortage of Polio Vaccines in the Country

*436. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of anti-polio drops for immunisation against polio in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what arrangements have been made to ensure easy availability of these drops in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Shortage is being experienced in respect of Polio vaccine for the Immunization programme did not pass the tests ter of 1987.

(b) The vaccine imported for the programme did not pass the tests before release for use.

(c) Polio vaccine can be imported freely by Trade and, UNICEF and WHO have been contacted to rush supplies for the Immunization Programme.

Action on Central Health Service Doctors Demands following withdrawal of strike

*437. DR. H. P. SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the withdrawal of strike by Central Government Health Services doctors, Government have taken steps to resolve the unresolved issues in consultation with doctors' representatives;

(b) if so, in respect of what specific issues the discussions or negotiations have been going on; and

(c) what is the Government's stand with respect to the main demand for parity with IAS and other Central Administrative Service Class I personnel in the matter of pay, remunerations and opportunities of promotions during their service career?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The main demands of the Joint Action Council of Central Health Service and others Service Doctors Associations submitted to the Government are as follows:—

I. Higher scale of pay at the entry point than those recommended by the Pay Commission.

II. Three time-bound promotions in the first 15 years of service.

III. Non-Practising Allowance at the rate of 50 per cent of the Revised Pay Scale without ceiling, failing which they should be permitted private practice. Non-practising Allowance to be treated as part of pay for purposes pertaining to Government Service.

IV. Other demands like grant of Conveyance Allowance at higher rates, Rural Area Allowance, Administrative Allowance, Teaching/Specialist Allowance, Risk Allowance, Special Pay and Professional Allowance, enhancement of age of retirement from 58 to 62—65 years and a unified cadre of Central Health Service instead of four sub-cadres.

These demands were discussed with the representatives of the Associations. The strike was called off unconditionally on 29th July, 1987. The following package of benefits has been announced by the Government for implementation:—